

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (previously presented) An apparatus for facilitating the processing and management of a securities trade comprising:

a computer;

trade execution information received by said computer, said trade execution information indicative of an executed trade by a first trading party;

software executing on said computer for determining block level trade execution information based upon said trade execution information;

trade order information received by said computer, said trade order information indicative of an ordered trade by a second trading party;

software executing on said computer for determining block level trade order information based upon said trade order information;

a set of predefined acceptable trade parameters; and

software executing on said computer for comparing the block level trade execution information with the block level trade order information, and for determining that a match exists if the block level trade execution information and

the block level trade order information correlate within said set of predefined acceptable trade parameters.

2. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said trade execution information comprises an indication of the block level trade execution information, and wherein said software executing on said computer for determining block level trade execution information comprises software executing on said computer for extracting the block level trade execution information from said trade execution information.

3. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said trade execution information comprises an indication of allocation level trade execution information but not an indication of the block level trade execution information, and wherein said software executing on said computer for determining block level trade execution information comprises software executing on said computer for generating block level trade execution information based upon the allocation level trade execution information.

4. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 3 wherein the generated block level trade execution information is replaced by block level trade execution information later received by said computer.

5. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said trade order information comprises an indication of the block level trade order information, and wherein said software executing on said computer for determining block level trade order information comprises software executing on said computer for extracting the block level trade order information from said trade order information.

6. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said trade order information comprises an indication of allocation level trade order information but not an indication of the block level trade order information, and wherein said software executing on said computer for determining block level trade order information comprises software executing on said computer for generating block level trade order information based upon the allocation level trade order information.

7. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the generated block level trade order information is replaced by block level trade order information later received by said computer.

8. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said trade execution information and said trade order information may be received by said computer in any order.

9. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said trade execution information and said trade order information may be received by said computer at any time prior to trade settlement.

10. (previously presented) An apparatus for facilitating the processing and management of a securities trade comprising:

a computer;

trade execution information received by said computer, said trade execution information indicative of an executed trade by a first trading party;

software executing on said computer for, if said trade execution information comprises an indication of block level trade execution information, extracting the

block level trade execution information from said trade execution information and for, if said trade execution information comprises an indication of allocation level trade execution information but not an indication of the block level trade execution information, generating block level trade execution information based upon the allocation level trade execution information;

trade order information received by said computer, said trade order information indicative of an ordered trade by a second trading party;

software executing on said computer for, if said trade order information comprises an indication of block level trade order information, extracting the block level trade order information from said trade order information and for, if said trade order information comprises an indication of allocation level trade order information but not an indication of the block level trade order information, generating block level trade order information based upon the allocation level trade order information;

a set of predefined acceptable trade parameters; and

software executing on said computer for comparing the block level trade execution information with the block level trade order information, and for determining that a match exists if the block level trade execution information and the block level trade order information correlate within said set of predefined acceptable trade parameters.

11. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein, if the block level trade execution information has been generated, the generated block level trade execution information is replaced by block level trade execution information later received by said computer.

12. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein, if the block level trade order information has been generated, the generated block level trade order information is replaced by block level trade order information later received by said computer.

13. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein said trade execution information and said trade order information may be received by said computer in any order.

14. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein said trade execution information and said trade order information may be received by said computer at any time prior to trade settlement.

15. (currently amended) A method for facilitating the processing and management of a securities trade, using software executing on a computer system, comprising the steps of:

receiving, with said computer system via a communications link, trade execution information, the trade execution information indicative of an executed trade by a first trading party;

determining, with said computer system, block level trade execution information based upon the trade execution information;

receiving, with said computer system via a communications link, trade order information, the trade order information indicative of an ordered trade by a second trading party;

determining, with said computer system, block level trade order information based upon the trade order information;

comparing, with said computer system, the block level trade execution information with the block level trade order information, and determining, with said computer system, that a match exists if the block level trade execution information and the block level trade order information correlate within a set of predefined acceptable trade parameters.

16. (currently amended) The method of claim 15 wherein the trade execution information comprises an indication of the block level trade execution information, and wherein said determining, with said computer system, block level trade execution information step comprises the step of extracting, with said computer system, the block level trade execution information from the trade execution information.

17. (currently amended) The method of claim 15 wherein the trade execution information comprises an indication of allocation level trade execution information but not an indication of the block level trade execution information, and wherein said determining, with said computer system, block level trade execution information step comprises the step of generating, with said computer system, block level trade execution information based upon the allocation level trade execution information.

18. (original) The method of claim 17 further comprising the step of replacing the generated block level trade execution information with later received block level trade execution information.

19. (currently amended) The method of claim 15 wherein the trade order information comprises an indication of the block level trade order information, and wherein said determining, with said computer system, block level trade order information step comprises the step of extracting, with said computer system, the block level trade order information from the trade order information.

20. (currently amended) The method of claim 15 wherein the trade order information comprises an indication of allocation level trade order information but not an indication of the block level trade order information, and wherein said determining, with said computer system, block level trade order information step comprises the step of generating, with said computer system, block level trade order information based upon the allocation level trade order information.

21. (original) The method of claim 20 further comprising the step of replacing the generated block level trade order information with later received block level trade order information.

22. (original) The method of claim 15 wherein the trade execution information and the trade order information may be received in any order.

23. (original) The method of claim 15 wherein the trade execution information and the trade order information may be received at any time prior to trade settlement.

24. (currently amended) A method for facilitating the processing and management of a securities trade, using software executing on a computer system, comprising the steps of:

receiving, with said computer system via a communications link, trade execution information, the trade execution information indicative of an executed trade by a first trading party;

extracting, with said computer system, the block level trade execution information from the trade execution information if the trade execution information comprises an indication of block level trade execution information, and, if the trade execution information comprises an indication of allocation level trade execution information but not an indication of the block level trade execution information, generating, with said computer system, block level trade execution information based upon the allocation level trade execution information;

receiving, with said computer system via a communications link, trade order information, the trade order information indicative of an ordered trade by a second trading party;

extracting, with said computer system, the block level trade order information from the trade order information if the trade order information comprises an indication of block level trade order information, and, if the trade order information comprises an indication of allocation level trade order information but not an indication of the block level trade order information, generating, with said computer system, block level trade order information based upon the allocation level trade order information; and

comparing, with said computer system, the block level trade execution information with the block level trade order information, and determining, with said computer system, that a match exists if the block level trade execution information and the block level trade order information correlate within a set of predefined acceptable trade parameters.

25. (original) The method of claim 24 wherein, if the block level trade execution information has been generated, said method further comprises the step of replacing the generated block level trade execution information with later received block level trade execution information.

26. (original) The method of claim 24 wherein, if the block level trade order information has been generated, said method further comprises the step of replacing the generated block level trade order information with later received block level trade order information.

27. (original) The method of claim 24 wherein the trade execution information and the trade order information may be received in any order.

28. (original) The method of claim 24 wherein the trade execution information and the trade order information may be received at any time prior to trade settlement.